

BULLET RESPONSE:

Reduction of \$503K from the requested level for the year 2001 would severely impact the Aeromedical Research program as follows:

- Complete elimination of the only contract funding within Aeromedical Research. This funding supports the fifth and final year of the FAA's Congressionally mandated NIOSH research program investigating cabin air quality, disease transmission, symptomology and galactic radiation exposure of cabin occupants (\$318K).
- Inability to maintain the same level of quality and number of biochemical analyses performed in support of the NTSB to determine the presence or absence of pharmacological agents (drugs) associated with aircraft fatalities (\$185K).

PARAGRAPH RESPONSE:

Reduction of \$503K from the 2001 Aeromedical Research budget would have an adverse impact on very specific, critical program activities. This includes the complete elimination of the only contract funding within Aeromedical Research (\$318K). This funding supports the fifth and final year of the FAA's Congressionally mandated NIOSH research program. The research involves investigation of cabin air quality, disease transmission, symptomology and galactic radiation exposure of both cabin occupants and flight crews. This reduction will have a very negative impact on the safety and well being of all aircraft occupants. Congress committed the FAA to accomplish this research. Reduction of an additional \$185K in-house funding will take a disproportionate toll on the aviation toxicology laboratory that performs biochemical and toxicological analysis involving human fatalities in aviation. This key activity directly supports the NTSB. These exceptionally rigorous analyses determine the presence or absence of pharmacological agents (drugs) associated with aircraft fatalities. The results frequently determine the cause of the fatal accident and points to corrective actions for directly enhancing aviation safety.